



U.S. Government Assistance to Pakistan

Entrepreneurship

The United States supports thousands of Pakistani entrepreneurs by increasing access to finance, strengthening entrepreneurship education, and nurturing an entrepreneurship culture.

Entrepreneurship ignites economic growth. It creates jobs, spurs innovation, and expands opportunity.

Pakistan's many entrepreneurs are working hard to grow their businesses. Through our *Khushali ka Safar* entrepreneurship program, the United States provides assistance to enhance their chances of success.

Together, we are increasing access to finance, strengthening entrepreneurship education, and nurturing an entrepreneurship culture so that more Pakistanis can achieve success.

Increasing Access to Finance and U.S. Markets:

Through the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative, the United States is providing seed capital that will reach approximately \$100 million when combined with matching funds from other investors, and this level might

increase. This funding will be invested to support Pakistan's small- and medium-size businesses with the potential to grow and create jobs. Professional investment management firms will manage this funding. Additionally, the United States has sponsored bilateral business conferences to connect Pakistani entrepreneurs with U.S. business partners. Four conferences on the Generalized System of Preferences have educated Pakistani entrepreneurs about duty-free access to the U.S. market that already is available for 3,511 Pakistani products.



Participants in Youth Tech Camp 2012 explore cutting-edge technology

Key projects:

- Increasing access to finance for small- and medium-size businesses
- Strengthening entrepreneurship education for more than 2,800 entrepreneurs and over 75,000 women micro-entrepreneurs
- Nurturing an entrepreneurship culture by upgrading eight Pakistani business incubation centers



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Strengthening Entrepreneurship Education:

The United States offers training opportunities for Pakistani entrepreneurs to help them accelerate growth.

Successful Pakistani business leaders coached 720 emerging entrepreneurs during U.S.-sponsored workshops in November 2012. More than 3,000 entrepreneurs have taken virtual classes with American business leaders. American entrepreneurs coached more than 100 Pakistanis at the U.S.-sponsored Global Entrepreneurship Summits in 2011 and 2012. Five investors from the Pakistani diaspora have mentored more than 800 Pakistani entrepreneurs during U.S.-supported trips to Pakistan since December 2012.

The United States also trains micro-entrepreneurs, especially women, through USAID's Entrepreneurs and Firms programs. USAID projects have supported more than 75,000 micro-entrepreneurs to develop better products and learn new skills.



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Hoagland encourages a Pakistani entrepreneur



At the Global Innovation through Science & Technology (GIST) summit, a U.S. government program connecting global entrepreneurs to American resources

Nurturing an Entrepreneurship Culture:

Since 2010, the United States has supported the development of eight world-class business incubation centers at universities across Pakistan. U.S.-sponsored networking opportunities have provided Pakistani entrepreneurs with opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences with their U.S. counterparts, especially regarding the successes that can come from taking risks. The U.S.-sponsored South Asia Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium in December 2012 featured a Pakistani delegation that led the conference in explaining potential obstacles and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs.

Everyday, U.S. and Pakistani entrepreneurs are working together to strengthen Pakistan's economy and the business ties between our countries. Entrepreneurship cooperation is just one of the many ways that the United States is supporting Pakistan's economic growth.

To learn more about many other U.S.-Pakistan initiatives that are making a positive impact on the lives of Pakistanis please visit <http://transition.usaid.gov/pk/> or e-mail us at uspakassistance@state.gov.